10/1/70

Dear Jim,

I do not pose as an expert on either explosions or ballistics, but I tend to believe that when there is an explosion inside a container, force is exerted in all directions, not merely the path of least resistance (where more of it may be exerted or visible), and whether or not that explosion is caused by something that has considerable force and tends to keep going in the same direction. I'm tired and do not recall the context in which I raised the question, and there is much we do not know. There is also much we do know that he have not yet accounted for. Among the things we have no way of knowing is how many fragments of bone became independent projectiles, where they went, what they look like or can look like if captured on film, or whether they can be distinghished from metallic fragments. I'd be inclined to think that if we accept the official story that all five fragments recovered from the car came from this single exploded bullet, and if none of them had either the energy to escape the car or make a hole through the windshiled, none would have the energy to be the things we see straight-lining in Zapruder. And if most of the force takes either the path of least resistance or continues in the direction in which it was originally exerted, it is close to impossible to explain the fact that most of the evidence of the explosion was to the left, whereas there is said to have been no point on that side from which it could have escaped. The entire hole is said to have been on the right side. There is said to have been none on the left. Little of the debris went to the right, and most of it did go to the left and considerably to the left. If Hal hasn't loaned you my very hasty writing in POST MORTEM and POST MORTEM III (I haven't yet written II and I'll be reorganizing and renumbering), maybe you'd like to read them. The first part was completed before Thompson and Sylvia appeared, and retyped in 8/67, then delayed by a few Archives games with some things they were withholding. The other part was written in a couple of days so I could be prepared for the hearing for which I originally did that work, the one in Washington's General Sessions court, where Garrison was the plaintiff- and we won that one.

Hal did tell me of this girl, longer ago than you indicate the relationship existed and how it began. I tell you this in confidence so you will understand because I have no doubt of Hal's feelings, and they are sincere. This girl was the friend of an old (literally, too) friend of Hal's, a man old enough to be my father. It broke their long friendship. I assume she is as fine a person as you say, for Hal said the same thing. However, she may also be a person who needs a father-image or father substitute. If that is the case, there may be the kind of problems I hope there are not....I hope if he gets serious about flying to Europe for this purpose you can discourage him, for needling haystacks at that cost is quite a luxury. Now I never suggested to Hal that she was some kind of agent, for he told me her employment, by department, as I recall, but he was kind of defensive about it. It is not just that I never suggested it, I have no reason to. What I do find a bit odd, however, is her friendship with a man in his 70s who is also one with quite a radical past. I have no knowledge at all, not even a reasonable basis for suspicion. I just don't want Hal to get hurt or to hurt himself. I had hoped, of course, that he would find a girl who meant something to him and that he would also have meaning for her.

Paul failed to send a copy of his paper to my friend Bernabie, who is an authentic expert. I did ask him to do this. I have also asked Bernabei to write Oaul and get a copy. As of 9/28 he had no answer. Now it is pretty obvious

that I could have made and sent Dick a copy. I didn't want it that way. I preferred that Paul accept this challenge as a challenge. I had asked him to send it to another, and he did. I also asked him for several copies I could submit to independent experts. He didn't do this, made no reference to it. If you are beginning to get the idea that I think Paul is not anxious to face things, that is what I am suggesting. I think it important for him that he do. Even if he is correct, that paper is a terrible can of trash. It will taint his reputation and his self-respect unless he does face and understand what he has done and maybe why.

Little else new. If you get the N.O. papers I don't have to tell you that authority has decided to organize for theblack militants, are rapidly radicalizing even conservative blacks, and those wall-to-wall slums may go up at any time. I recall few large cities with as much over-old frame construction, as close together, not one as well advanced into decay. I am concerned at what I consider possible there. And I'm appalled at the bail of $100,000 per person, the citing of a lawyer for refusing to breach the private client relationship and other things going on there. I have no close knowledge, for all I knew there but an undependable one have fallen silent, like it was ordained...Until it is in page, the work on FRAMEUP is about done. I do hope to get back to the litigation soon. In fact, the government has until Saturday only to respond to my spectro suit. If they haven't, we'll again move for a summary judgement on Monday. That should get response, anyway.

Thanks for taking the time. Best regards,